

WEST TEXAS COLLECTION

Basil D. Arthur Scrapbook Collection

15 linear inches

Record ID: 1990-6

Donor: Mrs. Addie Arthur Schmidt

Acquisition: Gift, 1990

Access: Open for research

Restrictions: Fragile

Citation: Basil D. Arthur Scrapbook Collection, West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX

Administrative/Biographical History:

Basil Arthur was born in Waco, TX 15 March 1875. At the age of twelve, Arthur moved with his family from the Blue Ridge Community in Falls County to Knickerbocker, TX (1887). The family settled on the west bank of Dove Creek. They brought two wagons and 120 Longhorn cattle. The family left the cattle in Old Runnels and traveled west to find land. They rented a house until they could build a home. Arthur remembered seeing buffalo carcasses littering the plains when they first arrived. The deer and antelope, however, were plentiful.

Social life in those days centered on the church. Arthur's father, S.D. Arthur, wanted to get away from cotton but actually introduced cotton to Tom Green County. In 1893 he built a water-powered cotton gin. It would turn out eight to ten bales a day. Cotton came from as far away as Stiles and Sherwood.

At the time the Arthur family moved to Tom Green County there were no farms or fences between Ballinger and San Angelo. There were few mesquite trees in the area. The Arthur family were neighbors with the Ketchum family, and as a child, Basil was friends with Tom (Blackjack).

Basil Arthur married May Roach (born 4 September 1880 at Sipe Springs in Comanche County), 11 October 1899. The couple had seven children. Arthur remained in the farm until 1947 when he and his wife moved to San Angelo. Eventually, he moved back to Knickerbocker where he enjoyed going through his scrapbooks and reminiscing about the old days. Basil Arthur died 19 December 1971 at the age of 96.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists of eight scrapbooks of newspaper clippings that pertain to the town of Knickerbocker compiled by Arthur and his daughter between the 1940's and 1990.